

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES**

**August 26, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Damian Gregory at 1:45 pm. Introductions were done. Minutes for June 2009 were accepted with two corrections.

**Attendance:** Ronald Fulton, Damian Gregory, Jose Martinez, Marie (Val) Schmidt, Jose Granda, Alan Rigerman, Dr. Sam Kohlenberg, Denise Valkema

**Chairperson's Report:** Damian Gregory spoke briefly about the cancellation of the July meeting. He attended a meeting concerning people with developmental disabilities and the needed care they will need after caregivers die. The organization is called Alternative Options for People with Developmental Disability Council. Because there were several concerns of people with disabilities concerning the easy card, the Chairman reported that several CODI and non-CODI members had a field test of the new easy card. The card can be read within a 2 inch vicinity of the sensor. There didn't seem to be any problems with the card for the people who were present. He also mentioned the financial consequence to the Human Service Coalition if the County's budget is reduced to social service organizations. There will be a September 2<sup>nd</sup> budget hearing in the County Commission chambers. He attended the Riders meeting and spoke to people who attended a meeting in Broward concerning para-transit. He is concerned that some of Broward County's restrictions might impact Dade para-transit riders.

**Committee Reports:** Ilene Hyams read the minutes from the Access Committee. There was some discussion on Jaws. The ADA Office would like to have a copy of Jaws but it is rather costly; it was mentioned that demos are available to try out Jaws for free. Ilene Hyams read the Housing minutes.

**Old Business:** Chairman brought up the subject of the letter of support that was written to the Miami Marlins. Ilene Hyams read the letter. A copy of the letter was requested by Alan Rigerman, Alan Dicey, Denny Wood, and Bob Lessne. Because some people were concerned that the design could change, Chairman emphasized that the letter supported the design of the ballpark as presented to CODI on June 11, 2009 and if any changes were done the letter couldn't be used to support those changes.

**Motion made by Alan Rigerman and seconded by Ronald Fulton to ask the Marlins if CODI could have a copy of the waiver package that they send to the Florida Building Waiver Committee in Tallahassee. Motion passed unanimously.** Chairman asked the waiver to be evaluated through the Access Committee.

**New Business:** Maude Gonzales informed CODI of the new wheelchair policy. Everyone will need to use a easy card to use transit. Even if a person doesn't use para-transit, they will need to be certified in order for them to ride free on fix-route. They can buy an easy card and use that but if they want to ride fix route free they have to be certified by para-transit. She also mentioned that recently a person using a power wheelchair on fix route had been restricted to use only para-transit. The person had lost the ability to operate his electric wheelchair in a safe way. The wheelchair had struck a passenger and two doors had been broken because of the way the wheelchair had been operated. Martha Cox had explained the difference between reinstatement and recertification. Reinstatement needs no medical documentation – it takes only a phone call. If a person has not used the service in over a year, para-transit will send out a letter asking the person to contact them. This is used in case someone had died or moved out of town. All it takes is a phone call to re-instate the person. Recertification is where new medical information is needed and a new application and interview. A question was asked about people who have disabilities that will not change and Ms. Cox said that those people will not be expected to have to get new medical information. Chairman mentioned that he would like to have a Transit committee meeting next week. Ms. Cox asked to be invited to the meeting.

Chairman spoke about the way he expects the meeting to run going forward. He said that there will be five rules that will be enforced. The first is no one speaks when the Chair is talking. The second rule is CODI members speak before anyone else. He expects the meetings to be orderly with no yelling or cross conversations. He will leave 20 minutes at the next meeting when the other three rules will be discussed. There was some discussion on the agenda order and these rules. Chairman again mentioned that if people want to bring up certain subjects they can either call him or the ADA Office. They can't expect to always bring up subjects they want to talk about without the Chair being notified. Often the agenda reflects pressing issues or invited staff to discuss various issues. The draft agenda is only a draft and people can always recommend other issues but this is done before the actually meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm